

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 16, 2005

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

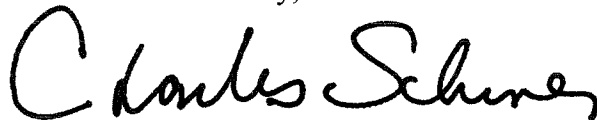
I applaud the California State Legislature for passing A.B. 1179 (Yee), a bill that, if signed, will prove to be an effective tool in limiting children's access to extremely violent video games by holding retailers liable for selling or leasing such games to minors.

In this bill your legislature defines "violent video game" in part as "a video game in which the range of options available to a player includes killing, maiming, dismembering, or sexually assaulting an image of a human being." You, like me, might find it hard to believe that such games exist, but earlier this year I learned of a new cop-killing game called "25 to Life," scheduled for release later this Fall. This game, which is just one of many other extremely violent video games marketed at children, allows players to shoot police officers, use civilians as human shields, and customize characters in gang colors. I was appalled to learn of "25 to Life" and have encouraged retailers and distributors in New York not to stock or sell it. I also called on Microsoft and Sony to terminate their licensing agreements with the game's manufacturer.

Such violent video games do nothing but desensitize children to death and destruction. Unlike the violent images children are already exposed to on television and in the movies, these games are interactive and therefore teach and encourage children to engage in violent, brutal conduct. I believe that Little Johnny should be learning how to read and write, not how to kill cops or anyone else.

Please join me and the California State Assembly in taking a stand against the availability of such extremely violent games to children by signing this important bill.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator